

APPENDIX F  
BASIC LEGISLATION

*The law in effect at the time of the taking of the 1950 Censuses, with selected notes, is reproduced here for purposes of reference. Most of these provisions, including the enactments mentioned in the notes, were included in the recodification of the Census law approved August 31, 1954 (Public Law 740, 83rd Congress).*

15TH DECENNIAL CENSUS ACT  
(PUBLIC--NO. 13--71ST CONGRESS,  
46 STAT. 21; 13 USC 201-220)

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE FIFTEENTH AND SUBSEQUENT DECENNIAL CENSUSES AND TO PROVIDE FOR APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

(13-201) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a census of population, agriculture, irrigation, drainage, distribution, unemployment, and mines shall be taken by the Director of the Census in the year 1930 and every ten years thereafter. The census herein provided for shall include each State, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico. A census of Guam, Samoa, and the Virgin Islands shall be taken in the same year by the respective governors of said islands and a census of the Panama Canal Zone by the Governor of the Canal Zone, all in accordance with plans prescribed or approved by the Director of the Census.

*Note: Separate censuses of "distribution" and of "unemployment" were conducted under this Act at the 1930 decennial census only. Subsequent to 1930, the Census of Distribution has been called the Census of Business, while information relating to "unemployment" was collected in 1940 and 1950 on schedules of the decennial census of population. Censuses of "mines" were conducted in 1930 and 1940.*

*Public Law 671 of the 80th Congress (62 Stat. 478; 13 USC 121-123), provides for the Censuses of Manufactures, Mineral Industries, Business, and Transportation to be taken every five years starting in 1949.*

(13-202) That the period of three years beginning the 1st day of January in the year 1930 and every tenth year thereafter shall be known as the decennial census period, and the reports upon the inquiries provided for in said section shall be completed within such period: Provided, That the tabulation of total population by States as required for the apportionment of Representatives shall be completed within eight months from the beginning of the enumeration and reported by the Director of the Census to the Secretary of Commerce and by him to the President of the United States.

(13-203) That there may be employed in the Bureau of the Census, in addition to the force provided for by the appropriation Act for the fiscal year immediately preceding the decennial census period, two assistant directors, one of whom shall act as executive assistant to the director, performing, in addition, the duties usually assigned to the chief clerk, and the other, who must be a person of known and tried experience in statistical work, as technical and statistical advisor; these officials to be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, upon the recommendation of the Director of the Census, in conformity with the civil service laws and rules.

*Note: The provisions of the above paragraph are no longer in force.*

In addition to the force hereinbefore provided for, there may be appointed by the Director of the Census, without regard to the provisions of the Classification Act, for any period not extending beyond the decennial census period, at rates of compensation to be fixed by him, as many temporary employees in the District

of Columbia as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the work: Provided, That census employees who may be transferred to any such temporary positions shall not lose their permanent civil-service status by reason of such transfer: Provided further, That hereafter in making appointments to clerical and other positions in the executive branch of the Government in the District of Columbia or elsewhere preference shall be given to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines, and widows of such, and to the wives of injured soldiers, sailors, and marines, who themselves are not qualified, but whose wives are qualified, to hold such positions: Provided further, That all such temporary appointments shall be made in conformity with the civil service laws and rules: Provided further, That in making any appointments under this Act to positions in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, preference shall be given to persons discharged under honorable conditions from the military or naval forces of the United States who served in such forces during the time of war and were disabled in the line of duty, to their widows, and to their wives if the husband is not qualified to hold such positions.

*Note: Provisions relating to appointments of veterans, their wives and widows are now covered by legislation applicable to Government departments and agencies in general.*

That special agents, supervisors, supervisors' clerks, enumerators, and interpreters may be appointed by the Director of the Census to carry out the provisions of this Act and of the Act to provide for a permanent Census Office, approved March 6, 1902, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, such appointments to be made without regard to the Civil Service laws or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, except that such special agents shall be appointed in accordance with the Civil Service laws. The Director of the Census may delegate to the supervisors authority to appoint enumerators. The enlisted men and officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps may be appointed and compensated for the enumeration of Army, Navy, Marine, and other military posts. Employees of the Department of Commerce and other departments and independent offices of the Government may, with the consent of the head of the respective department or office, be employed and compensated for field work in connection with the Fifteenth Decennial Census. The special agents, supervisors, supervisors' clerks, enumerators, and interpreters thus appointed shall receive compensation at rates to be fixed by the Director of the Census: Provided, That special agents appointed at a per diem rate shall not be paid in excess of \$8 per diem except as hereinafter provided; and that the compensation on a piece-price basis may be fixed without limitation as to the amount earned per diem: Provided further, That during the decennial census period the Director of the Census may fix the compensation of not to exceed twenty-five special agents at an amount not to exceed \$12 per diem: Provided further, That permanent employees of the Census Office and special agents may be detailed, when necessary, to act as supervisors or enumerators, such permanent employees and special agents to have like authority with and perform the same duties as the supervisors or enumerators in respect to the subjects committed to them under this Act.

*Note: The underscored words "Army, Navy and Marine Corps" were eliminated and the words "armed services" were substituted therefor; the underscored words "Army, Navy, Marine, and other military posts" were eliminated and the words "personnel of the armed services" were substituted therefor; the underscored words "the Fifteenth" were eliminated and the word "each" was substituted therefor. (See Act of July 6, 1949, 63 Stat. 406, 13 U.S.C. 203.)*

*The underscored per diem amounts and number of special agents mentioned are no longer applicable.*

(13-204) That the fifteenth and subsequent censuses shall be restricted to inquiries relating to population, to agriculture, to irrigation, to drainage, to distribution, to unemployment, and to mines. The number, form, and subdivision of the inquiries in the schedules used to take the census shall be determined by the Director of the Census, with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce.

*Note: For explanatory note relating to censuses of distribution, unemployment, and mines, see note following Section 13-201 of this Act on page F1.*

(13-205) That each supervisor shall perform such duties as may be imposed upon him by the Director of the Census in the enforcement of this Act, and the duties thus imposed shall be performed in any and all particulars in accordance with the orders and instructions of the Director of the Census; that each enumerator or other employee detailed to serve as enumerator shall be charged with the collection in his subdivision of the facts and statistics called for on the population and agricultural schedules, and such other schedules as the Director of the Census may determine shall be used by him in connection with the census. It shall be the duty of each enumerator to visit personally each dwelling house in his subdivision, and each family therein, and each individual living out of a family in any place of abode, and by inquiry made of the head of each family, or of the member thereof deemed most competent and trustworthy, or of such individual living out of a family, to obtain each and every item of information and all particulars required for the census; and in case no person shall be found at the usual place of abode of such family, or individual living out of a family, competent to answer the inquiries, then it shall be lawful for the census employee to obtain the required information as nearly as may be practicable from the family or families or person or persons living nearest to such place of abode who may be competent to answer such inquiries.

(13-206) That the census of the population and of agriculture required by section 1 of this Act shall be taken as of the 1st day of April, and it shall be the duty of each enumerator to commence the enumeration of his district on the day following unless the Director of the Census in his discretion shall change the date of commencement of the enumeration in said district by reason of climatic or other conditions which would materially interfere with the proper conduct of the work; but in any event it shall be the duty of each enumerator to prepare the returns hereinbefore required to be made and to forward the same to the supervisor of his district within thirty days from the commencement of the enumeration of his district: Provided, that in any city having two thousand five hundred inhabitants or more under the preceding census the enumeration of the population shall be completed within two weeks from the commencement thereof.

*Note: The underscored words in this section vest authority in the Director to advance or defer the specified date of the enumeration.*

(13-207) That if any person shall receive or secure to himself any fee, reward, or compensation as a consideration for the appointment or employment of any person as supervisor, enumerator, or clerk, or other employee, or shall in any way receive or secure to himself any part of the compensation paid to any supervisor, enumerator, clerk, or other employee, he shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$3,000 or be imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(13-208) That any supervisor, supervisor's clerk, enumerator, interpreter, special agent, or other employee who, having taken and subscribed the oath of office, shall, without justifiable cause, neglect or refuse to perform the duties enjoined on him by this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding \$500; or if he shall, without the authority of the Director of the Census, publish or communicate any information coming into his possession by reason of his employment under the provision of this Act, or the Act to provide for a permanent Census Office or Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, he shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not to exceed \$1,000 or be imprisoned not to exceed two years, or both so fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the court; or if he shall willfully and knowingly swear or affirm falsely as to the truth of any statement required to be made or subscribed by him under oath by or under authority of this Act or of the Act to provide for a permanent Census Office or Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding

\$2,000 or imprisoned not exceeding five years, or both; or if he shall willfully and knowingly make a false certificate or a fictitious return he shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction of either of the last-named offenses he shall be fined not exceeding \$2,000 or be imprisoned not exceeding five years or both; or if any person who is or has been an enumerator shall knowingly or willfully furnish or cause to be furnished, directly or indirectly, to the Director of the Census or to any supervisor or other employee of the census any false statement or false information with reference to any inquiry for which he was authorized and required to collect information, he shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding \$2,000 or be imprisoned not exceeding five years, or both.

(13-209) That it shall be the duty of all persons over eighteen years of age when requested by the Director of the Census, or by any supervisor, enumerator, or special agent, or other employee of the Census Office, acting under the instructions of the said director, to answer correctly, to the best of their knowledge, all questions on the census schedules applying to themselves and to the families to which they belong or are related, and to the farm or farms of which they or their families are the occupants; and any person over eighteen years of age who, under the conditions hereinbefore stated, shall refuse or willfully neglect to answer any of these questions, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding \$100 or be imprisoned not exceeding sixty days, or both, and any such person who shall willfully give answers that are false shall be fined not exceeding \$500 or be imprisoned not exceeding one year, or both.

And it is hereby made unlawful for any individual, committee, or other organization of any kind whatsoever, to offer or render to any supervisor, supervisor's clerk, enumerator, interpreter, special agent, or other officer or employee of the Census Office engaged in making an enumeration of population, either directly or indirectly, any suggestion, advice, or assistance of any kind, with the intent or purpose of causing an inaccurate enumeration of population to be made, either as to the number of persons resident in any district or community, or in any other respect; and any individual, or any officer or member of any committee or other organization of any kind whatsoever, who directly or indirectly offers or renders any such suggestion, advice, information, or assistance, with such unlawful intent or purpose, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding \$1,000, or be imprisoned for not exceeding one year, or both.

And it shall be the duty of every owner, proprietor, manager, superintendent, or agent of a hotel, apartment house, boarding or lodging house, tenement, or other building, when requested by the Director of the Census, or by any supervisor, enumerator, special agent, or other employee of the Census Office, acting under the instructions of the said director, to furnish the names of the occupants of said hotel, apartment house, boarding or lodging house, tenement, or other building, and to give thereto free ingress and egress therefrom to any duly accredited representative of the Census Office, so as to permit the collection of statistics for census purposes, including the proper and correct enumeration of all persons having their usual place of abode in said hotel, apartment house, boarding or lodging house, tenement, or other building; and any owner, proprietor, manager, superintendent, or agent of a hotel, apartment house, boarding or lodging house, tenement, or other building who shall refuse or willfully neglect to give such information or assistance under the conditions hereinbefore stated shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding \$500.

(13-210) That it shall be the duty of every owner, official, agent, person in charge, or assistant to the person in charge, of any company, business, institution, establishment, religious body, or organization of any nature whatsoever, to answer completely and correctly to the best of his knowledge all questions relating to his respective company, business, institution, establishment, religious body, or other organization, or to records or statistics in his official custody, contained on any census schedule prepared by the Director of the Census under the authority of this Act, or of the Act to provide for a permanent Census Office, approved March 6, 1902, or of Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto; and any person violating the provisions of this section by refusing or willfully neglecting to answer any of said questions, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding \$500, or imprisoned for a period not exceeding sixty days, or both so fined and imprisoned, and any person violating the provisions of this section by willfully giving answers that are false shall be fined not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisoned for a period not exceeding one year, or both.

(13-211) That the information furnished under the provisions of this Act shall be used only for the statistical purposes for which it is supplied. No publication shall be made by the Census Office whereby the data furnished by any particular establishment or individual can be identified, nor shall the Director of the Census permit anyone other than the sworn employees of the Census Office to examine the individual reports.

*Note: The provisions of this section prohibit the disclosure or publication of any individual information, and they restrict the use of collected data to statistical purposes for which supplied. These provisions are strictly enforced through Bureau policy, procedures and regulations, and they are applicable to Federal, State, and other governmental agencies as well as to private organizations and individuals. Individuals may, however, request the Bureau to furnish to themselves or to others personal information supplied on census of population schedules for genealogical or other proper purposes (such as social security, civil service, etc.) Individuals, corporations, associations and all others who furnish the Bureau with personal or business information may waive the guaranty of secrecy provided for by this section.*

(13-212) That all fines and penalties imposed by this Act may be enforced by indictment or information in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(13-213) That the Director of the Census is hereby authorized to make requisition upon the Public Printer for such printing as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, to wit: Blanks, schedules, circulars, pamphlets, envelopes, work sheets, and other items of miscellaneous printing; that he is further authorized to have printed by the Public Printer, in such editions as the director may deem necessary, preliminary and other census bulletins, and final reports of the results of the several investigations authorized by this Act or by the Act to establish a permanent Census Office and Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto and to publish and distribute said bulletins and reports.

(13-214) That all mail matter, of whatever class or weight, relating to the census and addressed to the Census Office, or to any official thereof, and indorsed "Official business, Census Office," shall be transmitted free of postage, and by registered mail if necessary, and so marked: Provided, That if any person shall make use of such indorsement to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his or her private letter, package, or other matter in the mail, the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$300, to be prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction.

*Note: The free mailing privilege authorized by this section does not extend to packages weighing in excess of four (4) pounds.*

(13-215) That the Secretary of Commerce, whenever he may deem it advisable, on request of the Director of the Census, is hereby authorized to call upon any other department or office of the Government for information pertinent to the work herein provided for.

(13-216) (Amended July 16, 1952, 66 Stat. 736) That there shall be taken, beginning in the month of October 1954, and in the same month of every tenth year thereafter, a census of agriculture. The census herein provided for shall include each State, but shall not include the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or such other areas or territory over which the United States exercises sovereignty or jurisdiction: Provided, however, That as to the areas excluded from such census it is directed that data available from various Government sources shall be included as an appendix to the report of such census. The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to collect such preliminary or supplementary statistics, either in advance of or after the taking of such census, as are necessary to the initiation, taking, or completion thereof. The inquiries, and the number, form, and subdivisions thereof for the census provided for in this section shall be determined by the Secretary of Commerce. Employees of the Department of Commerce and other departments and independent offices of the Government may, with the consent of the head of the respective department or office, be employed and compensated for field work in connection with each census provided for by this section.

(13-217) That the Director of the Census be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to collect and publish, for every second year after 1927, statistics of manufacturing industries; and the director is hereby authorized to prepare such schedules as in his judgment may be necessary.

*Note: This section of the law was repealed in its entirety by Public Law 671 of the 80th Congress, (62 Stat. 478, 13 U.S.C. 121-123).*

(13-218) That the Director of the Census be, and he is hereby, authorized at his discretion, upon the written request of the governor of any State or Territory or of a court of record, to furnish such governor or court of record with certified copies of so much of the population or agricultural returns as may be requested, upon the payment of the actual cost of making such copies and \$1 additional for certification; and that the Director of the Census is further authorized, in his discretion, to furnish to individuals such data from the population schedules as may be desired for genealogical or other proper purposes, upon payment of the actual cost of searching the records and \$1 for supplying a certificate; and that the Director of the Census is authorized to furnish transcripts of tables and other records and to prepare special statistical compilations for State or local officials, private concerns, or individuals upon the payment of the actual cost of such work: Provided, however, That in no case shall information furnished under the authority of this Act be used to the detriment of the person or persons to whom such information relates.

*Note: It is by virtue of this section of the law that the Bureau issues certificates showing evidence of age, of kinship, and of residence, etc.; furnishes transcripts of tables and other records, and prepares special statistical compilations and studies.*

(13-219) That the Director of the Census may authorize the expenditure of necessary sums for the actual and necessary traveling expenses of the officers and employees of the Census Office, including an allowance in lieu of subsistence not exceeding \$6 per day during their necessary absence from the Census Office, or, instead of such an allowance, their actual subsistence expenses, not to exceed \$7 per day: Provided, That employees of the bureau may be paid in lieu of all transportation expenses not to exceed 7 cents per mile for the use of their own automobiles or not to exceed 3 cents per mile for the use of their own motor cycles when used for necessary travel on official business.

*Note: Maximum actual subsistence expenses at the time of the Census was \$9 per day, while reimbursement for use of an employee's own automobile was not to exceed 9 cents per mile. Employees were cautioned concerning the use of means of transportation other than automobile owned by them (horses, boats, airplanes, etc.), and should receive specific authority in writing for such use to insure reimbursement.*

Approved June 18, 1929, as amended.

## CENSUS OF HOUSING

(PUBLIC LAW 171--81ST CONGRESS  
63 STAT. 441; 42 U.S.C. 1442)

(42-1442) (a) The Director of the Census is authorized and directed to take a census of housing in each State, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Alaska, in the year 1950 and decennially thereafter in conjunction with, at the same time, and as a part of the population inquiry of the decennial census in order to provide information concerning the number, characteristics (including utilities and equipment), and geographical distribution of dwelling units in the United States. The Director of the Census is authorized to collect such supplementary statistics (either in advance of or after the taking of such census) as are necessary to the completion thereof.

(b) All of the provisions, including penalties, of the Act providing for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, approved June 18, 1929, as amended (U.S.C., title 13, ch. 4), shall apply to the taking of the census provided for in subsection (a) of this section.

*Note: It is by virtue of the above provision of law that the Bureau conducts the Decennial Censuses of Housing and collects supplementary statistics relating to such censuses.*

Approved July 15, 1949.

## APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

(PUBLIC LAW 291--77TH CONGRESS  
55 STAT. 761; 2 U.S.C. 2a, 2b)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 22 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for apportionment of Representatives in Congress," approved June 18, 1929, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 22. (a) On the first day, or within one week thereafter, of the first regular session of the Eighty-second Congress and of each fifth Congress thereafter, the President shall transmit to the Congress a statement showing the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed, as ascertained under the seventeenth and each subsequent decennial census of the population, and the number of Representatives to which each State would be entitled under an apportionment of the then existing number of Representatives by the method known as the method of equal proportions, no State to receive less than one Member.

"(b) Each State shall be entitled, in the Eighty-third Congress and in each Congress thereafter until the taking effect of a reapportionment under this section or subsequent statute, to the number of Representatives shown in the statement required by subsection (a) of this section, no State to receive less than one Member. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, within fifteen calendar days after the receipt of such statement, to send to the executive of each State a certificate of the number of Representatives to which such State is entitled under this section. In case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk, or of his absence or inability to discharge this duty, then such duty shall devolve upon the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; and in case of vacancies in the offices of both the Clerk and the Sergeant at Arms, or the absence or inability of both to act, such duty shall devolve upon the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

"(c) Until a State is redistricted in the manner provided by the law thereof after any apportionment, the Representatives to which such State is entitled under such apportionment shall be elected in the following manner: (1) If there is no change in the number of Representatives, they shall be elected from the districts then prescribed by the law of such State, and if any of them are elected from the State at large they shall continue to be so elected; (2) if there is an increase in the number of Representatives, such additional Representative or Representatives shall be elected from the State at large and the other Representatives from the districts then prescribed by the law of such State; (3) if there is a decrease in the number of Representatives but the number of districts in such State is equal to such decreased number of Representatives, they shall be elected from the districts then prescribed by the law of such State; (4) if there is a decrease in the number of Representatives but the number of districts in such State is less than such number of Representatives, the number of Representatives by which such number of districts is exceeded shall be elected from the State at large and the other Representatives from the districts then prescribed by the law of such State; or (5) if there is a decrease in the number of Representatives and the number of districts in such State exceeds such decreased number of Representatives, they shall be elected from the State at large."

Sec. 2 (a) Each State shall be entitled, in the Seventy-eighth and in each Congress thereafter until the taking effect of a reapportionment under a subsequent statute or such section 22, as amended by this Act, to the number of Representatives shown in the statement transmitted to the Congress on January 8, 1941, based upon the method known as the method of equal proportions, no State to receive less than one Member.

(b) If before the enactment of this Act a certificate has been sent to the executive of any State under the provisions of such section 22, as in force before the enactment of this Act, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall, within fifteen calendar days after the date of enactment of this Act, send a new certificate to such executive stating the number of Representatives to which such State is entitled under this section.

Approved, November 15, 1941.